

**Question for written answer E-001562/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Lídia Pereira, José Manuel Fernandes, Maria da Graça Carvalho**

Subject: Public complaints about dredging in the River Sado, in Setúbal

European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) have been allocated to the project to improve maritime accessibility at the Port of Setúbal, in which several million cubic metres of sand are being dredged in the estuary of the River Sado. This dredging poses a number of environmental risks, as acknowledged in the environmental impact assessment for the project, and has serious economic consequences.

A number of civil society movements argue that it should not be taking place and believe that people's right to be consulted, provided for in EU law, has been disregarded. Some of the region's economic operators also oppose it. A number of these interested parties (which state that they have been consulted in the process, despite it being a requirement) have submitted complaints before judicial and administrative authorities. A complaint has also been sent to the Commission.

The Administration for the Ports of Setúbal and Sesimbra is pressing on with the project and continuing with the dredging, despite the fact that proceedings are pending and the Portuguese Parliament has tabled resolutions recommending that it be suspended.

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1. In the light of this situation and the information in the complaint sent to the Commission, what is the Commission's position?
2. Given the immediate consequences of dredging, will the Commission respond as quickly as possible if the project is suspended?

**Supporter<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by a Member other than the authors: Álvaro Amaro (PPE)